

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 15, 2015

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman

Brian Lapham, Vice Chairman

Phil Bean, Selectman Representative (arrived 8:16 pm- left 8:21pm)

Robert Ladd, Hampton Village Precinct Representative

David Wood, State Representative

Jerry Znoj, School Board Representative

Nicholas Bridle

Scott Blair

Glenn Farrell

Timothy "Citizen" Jones

Sunny Kravitz

Stephen LaBranche

James O'Loughlin

Michael Pierce

Michael Plouffe

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Latimer announced the hiring of a new secretary who will work remotely.

Self-introductions made by committee members.

Presentation & Review of School Year 2014-2015

Kathleen Murphy, Superintendent SAU 90

Nathan Lunney, Finance Director SAU 90

Ms. Murphy stated very much engaged in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program at the Middle School. This year finalized curriculum in Language Arts and Math and have adopted new assessments. We finished first year of Power School. Chromebooks in grades 3-7, that

they use at school and home. Laptops in grade 8; will have Chromebooks next year. We are working on having computers at the lower levels.

Mr. Lunney stated in the Food Service Program turned a \$17,500 loss from 2013-2014 into an \$18,500 gain in 2014-2015. Also we saved on the energy due to not seeing the spikes in pricing that were expected.

Ms. Murphy said Centre School has been national recognized. Al Magnusson was a finalist for NH Teach of the Year. Marston School and Centre School were both recognized for their volunteer programs. Hampton School District was recognized by the Parent Information Center and the NH Department of Education for the Special Education Programs.

Mr. Lunney reported that the operating budget for 2014-2015 finished with a surplus of \$332,000; Excess Revenues return of \$113,919; Fund Balance to offset taxes is \$446,815. Federal Funds – total of \$545,320 to benefit Hampton students. Food Service Fund - \$18,524 retained as net of 2014-2015 operations. Special Education Trust – June 30, 2015 balance of \$219,029.87.

Ms. Murphy stated board has developed 6 goals: curriculum, find highly qualified teachers (training), communication, governance, finance, and Hampton Academy Project.

Mr. Lunney said the 2014-2015 operating budget was \$19,961,000 including all the appropriations. The 2015-2016 operating budget is \$20,084,490 including paraprofessional agreement; Long-term Maintenance \$300,000; OPM and Architect – Hampton Academy project \$86,250; Child Benefit Savings – Sacred Heart \$46,750: Total Appropriations \$20,517,490.

Mr. Lunney said the following goals are driving the 2016-2017 Budget: continued focus on repurposing resources; anticipated budget drivers; monitoring student enrollment for budget impact; remain attentive to federal entitlement grants; renegotiating with the teachers association (separate article); energy; special education costs.

Ms. Murphy said they were able to reduce staff due to enrollment, as were able to repurpose the resources. Initial project efforts are underway; Community Forum on September 24, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Eastman Gym. Three strong reasons to renovate: bond rates are exceptionally low;

no major projects in town at the moment; bonds at Marston and Centre are about to be paid off.

Chairman Latimer asked how they changed the food service loss into a positive. Mr. Lunney answered it was due to a refocus of labor and a thinning of labor; generate more revenue by selling more meals. Ms. Murphy said adding Head Start equals more meals and increased revenue paid for by the feds.

Chairman Latimer asked about the new cable channel. Ms. Murphy stated the concern was not having enough money to run both channels. Chairman Latimer stated on last night's Selectman's meeting there was a broad discussion of the Comcast cable contract. Ms. Murphy stated she is hoping to be included in the negotiations as to state the needs of the school district.

Mr. Jones asked if some of the line items were related to snow. Mr. Lunney answered yes. Mr. Jones asked if they pay for and do their own plowing. Mr. Lunney said the town is doing the big areas and they do the "smalls". Mr. Jones asked if the insurance plans qualify as a Cadillac Plan. Mr. Lunney is not sure at this point into the future contracts, but as for the contracts now, none hit the threshold.

Mr. Blair questioned the variances of the Federal Grant, Food Services and Warrant Articles. Mr. Lunney spoke of not spending the total \$600,000 of Federal Grants; food services self-funding venture and gets to keep the left over and doesn't add to general fund.

Mr. Ladd asked about selling the land in western Hampton. Ms. Murphy didn't have a clear answer on what would be happening with the land.

Mr. LaBranche asked about enrollment. Ms. Murphy stated the enrollment has declined at the lower grades, but not the Marston and Hampton Academy ages; good news birth rates are up

Vice-Chairman Lapham asked if anymore LGC money was going to come in. Mr. Lunney stated yes received \$252,000 check. Vice-Chairman Lapham asked about technology. Mr. Lunney discussed looking into having a dedicated line instead of the Comcast cable they currently have, due to having 400 children on-line at the same time.

BREAK 8:04-8:16pm

Chairman Latimer announced that during the Break, Superintendent Murphy offered a tour of the Hampton Academy, to members of the Budget Committee. Stephen LaBranche volunteered to coordinate between the Bud Com & the Superintendent.

Correspondence

Chairman Latimer received figures from Kristi Pulliam regarding the Conservation Commission to be reviewed at the October 6, 2015 meeting. Chairman Latimer has not received correspondence from the Town Clerk regarding election warrant article #48. Also sent a request to the Town Manager for figures relative to snow and ice, as he is on vacation have not received any information. Someone asked if that would include any money included from the government. Chairman Latimer said no, that request had been given to Selectman Bean at the last meeting. She asked if Selectmen Bean had heard anything about the reimbursement from the Federal Government for the 2 days of the ice emergency.

Selectman Bean said you have to include me on the emails for information request.

Chairman Latimer said that was requested in person at the last meeting.

Selectman Bean asked to continue without interruption. He stated if he gets the emails as you have emailed to the town manager and town clerk. If he gets a copy of it he thinks he can help expedite it and get the information.

Chairman Latimer asked has there been any word or discussion from the board of selectmen concerning the funds coming back from the government. Selectman Bean said if you had requested the information from me for this committee, and I have none, I would respond to that. Chairman Latimer said she would take that as a no.

Mr. Jones was confused as to Selectman Bean stating he was a conduit to communication from the town clerk since she is an elected official and does not report to the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Bean left the meeting. (8:21 pm)

Stephen LaBranche pointed out that all Budget Committee members were in attendance except Selectman Bean.

Chairman Latimer stated she regrets that there is a missed opportunity and no avenue to discuss questions directed to the BOS at the last meeting with the exit of Selectman Bean.

Chairman Latimer also stated she has offered every avenue for cooperation and has had no response from Selectman Bean. I have heard way too much about protocol and heard very little about substance. Listening to the Board of Selectman's meetings they have issues amongst themselves. We will make our requests and they will be considered or they won't, but we will get the information. I will put my request in writing to the Town Manager and to the full board.

A brief outline was given of what the meeting process has been for over 15 years and it was indicated there is no need for change.

Mr. Jones suggested that the requests be sent out and copied to all the budget committee members including Selectman Bean; Selectman Bridle the Budget Committee alternate should be copied as well. Mr. Pierce suggested a copy be sent to all the Selectmen.

Preparation of Municipal Budget

A. Calendar

B. Requests for Information

Review of Minutes

June 16, 2015

Mr. Jones had an amendment, page 2

Mr. Znoj wants changes, page 2

Not voted on at this time.

MOVED by Mr. Znoj **SECONDED** by Mr. Farrell to approve the Minutes of July 21, 2015 as amended

Mr. Jones had an amendment, page 2, bullet #4 – add the word “to”

Vote: 12 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstentions (O'Loughlin, Plouffe)

Hampton Beach Village District Precinct Report (Budget Impact Information)

Mr. Ladd would like to inform the public that the Precinct Budget is entirely paid for by the owners and residents of the precinct and does not have any impact on the Town Budget. The expenses are over for the season, but will have additional revenue coming in throughout the fall, particularly from the parking lots, as the Casino has fall engagements and there are road races which will give us additional revenue.

Mr. Jones stated that the HBVD activities do have an impact on the town budget, particularly the DPW, Fire and Police.

Mr. Pierce asked how the new parking lot did. Mr. Ladd said it did not get going until late in the season, therefore, the number right now is small.

Mr. Znoj would like the survey completed and turned in by September 25, 2015 to him or the SAU office.

Selectman's Representative Report (Budget Impact Information)

No selectman available for report.

Old Business

Mr. Znoj said he and Mr. Plouffe would like to tour the DPW and Waste Water Treatment Plant. Others confirmed that they would like to go also. Mr. Jones stated to go through the DPW sub-committee and make the request. Chairman Latimer said we will make a request to schedule a tour.

Vice-Chairman Lapham said they will be having a CIP meeting before the next Budget Committee meeting.

New Business

Mr. Jones has a concern that we are not utilizing the sub-committees. Chairman Latimer said we have not utilized the sub-committees as much as

people think we have. You can follow meetings on television, then report back to enlighten us, but we haven't gotten to that point yet, as we haven't started gathering anything at this point. We haven't started gathering anything yet at this point, we are just trying to accommodate everyone with a stream of requests in an orderly fashion.

Mr. Jones stated the membership of this committee is not looking to their sub-committees as much as they perhaps ought to. The IT Committee requested protocol through the Chair via the Town Manager and a month later we got the reaction which you saw on TV 2 weeks ago. Since that time we have met twice and are meeting for a third time after this meeting in this room. I just wanted to let you all know you have an active IT Committee and the public is welcome.

Vice-Chairman Lapham stated that the Administrative Sub-Committee hasn't met. Chairman Latimer said you may not have anything to do yet. You might want to jump on any information that comes out about insurance.

Mr. Blair said shouldn't we be looking for the department head of the presenter of that budget to respond to that question and tell us at that time. I have never been comfortable with how this works with the sub-committee.

Chairman Latimer said we give each department a night and it would be good to have someone on the committee that has followed through within their sub-committees and can enlighten the rest of us.

Mr. Jones asked what sub-committees we have.

Mr. Znoj said he is bothered by this sophisticated protocol. Chairman Latimer stated the RSAs tell us what our duties are and we all swore an oath. We have no control over any other board, nor do they control us. Forward your questions to me.

Mr. Kravitz said we should start thinking about a warrant article to remain this size of the Budget Committee, as the 15 people represent the community a lot more and should let the voters decide. Chairman Latimer stated that will not be something the Budget Committee will be putting forward, but any private citizen can.

Adjournment

Stephen LaBranche MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.
SECONDED by Mike Pierce.

Vote: 14 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Jones)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Latimer, Chairman
T. Y., Secretary